

The President's Daily Brief

1 October 1971

47

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

East and West German negotiators have resumed their talks after both sides made some concessions.
(Page 1)

South Vietnam's President Thieu seems almost certain to receive a vote of confidence and should be able to weather the pre-election furor caused by his sole candidacy. (Page 2)

Panama

50X1

(Page 3)

Unrest in the refugee camps in India, as well as prospects for shipping to East Pakistan are discussed on Page 4.

Yesterday's National Day reception did not shed any light on Communist China's leadership problems.
(Page 5)

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GERMANY

East and West German negotiators return to their talks today to work out details of the four-power Berlin Agreement initialed on 3 September. Their discussions were stalemated until the West Germans abandoned their insistence that the two sides use a common German-language text. At the same time, Bonn is encouraged by the signing of a postal and telecommunications agreement yesterday in which Pankow made several concessions.

The shelving of the textual problem has also cleared the way for the West Berlin Senat to resume parallel negotiations with East Germany next Monday on intra-Berlin matters. These include transportation, communications, and sanitation matters affecting both halves of the city, as well as arrangements for West Berliners to visit the East.

We anticipate that Pankow will still bargain sharply as the talks proceed. Moscow, however, will not permit Pankow to stall indefinitely. The Soviets want the talks completed in order to move on to the formal signing of the Berlin Agreement and to Bonn's ratification of the German-Soviet treaty of 1970.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

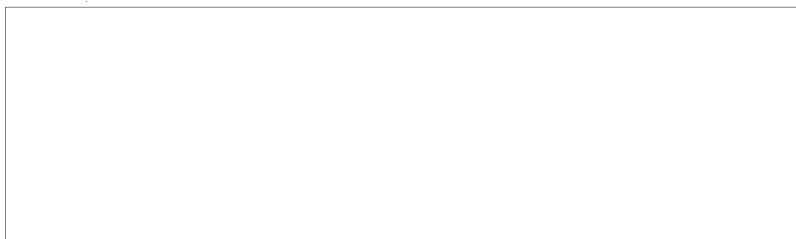
President Thieu seems almost certain to receive what he can interpret as a strong vote of confidence on Sunday, despite fairly widespread unhappiness over the election. He is counting on heavy support from rural areas, which have remained largely unaffected by the political turmoil in the cities, and is said to have passed the word to provincial officials to ensure a large turnout. But the calls for a boycott by the An Quang Buddhists and other groups could cut into the vote total.

Forces in opposition to the election remain relatively weak and divided. Barring an unexpected turn, such as a police clash with demonstrators which produced a martyr, Thieu should be able to weather the furor without too much immediate damage to his over-all political position. Although many moderate and formerly pro-government groups have become critical of Thieu, only a few have switched sides and joined the active opposition.

After the balloting, Thieu may be able to regain the support of some of these people with conciliatory gestures. The loss of confidence in Thieu and the constitutional system on the part of many others will probably endure, however, and Thieu as a consequence is likely to face a more energetic opposition for some time to come.

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INDIA-PAKISTAN

Indian officials are concerned over growing unrest in the refugee camps. There have been clashes with relief workers over distribution of rations, as well as violence between refugees and local Indians who consider themselves just as needy and entitled to aid as the Pakistanis. Religious tensions lie close to the surface and could result in more violence. Communist agitators meanwhile are trying to stir up more trouble in the camps in order to embarrass the government.

* * *

Following the mining of at least five ships by Bangla Desh guerrillas last week, seven Western shipping firms have announced an indefinite suspension of service to East Pakistan. The lines provide the only scheduled service between East Pakistani ports and the west coast of North America, all of South America, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. Together they account for one-fourth of all normal shipping. Emergency relief efforts will not be affected immediately because nearly all foodgrains are being shipped via nonscheduled charter vessels.

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NOTES

Communist China: Last evening's National Day reception failed to shed any light on Peking's leadership troubles. Chou En-lai did not attend the reception nor did most of the other important Peking-based politburo members, and there were no speeches during the abbreviated 90-minute affair. The authoritative editorial that usually marks this major holiday has not appeared. Chinese officials have again privately explained these latest departures from previous practice as merely more "reform."

USSR-Sudan: The Soviets are still trying to make a fresh diplomatic start in the Sudan, this time using Egyptian, Syrian, and Indian mediation. A new Soviet ambassador will depart Moscow for Khartoum in several days. His job will be to recoup the harm done to the USSR's position by the bitter recriminations between the two in the wake of the coup against President Numayri last July. Although Numayri is under pressure from some of his advisers to patch up relations with Moscow, he appears to be in no hurry and continues to make anti-Soviet statements in public.

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